

B1  
C1  
C2  
information based on the outcome of the test, to provide a second set of available instances of transportation.

(Twice Amended) 2. The travel planning system of claim 1 wherein the availability process determines whether the single source of availability information is reliable, and if the results are reliable, the availability process returns the results.

C1  
C2  
C3  
(Twice Amended) 3. The travel planning system of claim 1 wherein to execute a second set of seat availability queries to the first source or a different source, the availability process makes multiple, sequential seat availability queries to the first source or a different source of seat availability information.

(Twice Amended) 4. The travel planning system of claim 1 wherein to execute a second set of seat availability queries the availability process makes multiple simultaneous seat availability queries to multiple, different sources of seat availability information.

(Twice Amended) 5. The travel planning system of claim 1 wherein the first source or a different source[s] of seat availability information have differing fixed and marginal costs associated with obtaining information, including computation, communication, time, and monetary-cost.

B2  
C1  
(Twice Amended) 9. The travel planning system of claim 1 wherein the first source or a different source of seat availability information is a source of predicted availability information that generate replies with differing quality properties including at least one of freshness, confidence, precision, and validity.

C1  
B3  
(Amended) 15. A computer program product for use with a travel planning system for determining availability of a seat for a mode of transportation, comprises instructions for causing a computer to:  
receive a set of instances of transportation that satisfy a user query;

B3  
Conf'd  
C1  
Conf'd

determine quality of the availability information of a first source of availability information to guide a travel planning system to determine a subsequent set of available instances of transportation and if the quality of the availability information is low, the availability process executes a second set of seat availability queries to the first source or a different source of seat availability information to provide a second set of available instances of transportation.

(Amended) 16. The computer program product of claim 15 further comprising instructions to:

send seat availability queries to a different higher quality source seat availability information if the results from the first source are low quality.

B4  
C1

(Amended) 21. A method for determining availability of a seat for a mode of transportation, comprises:

evaluating quality of availability information received from a source of availability information for a set of instances of transportation to determine a set of available instances of transportation, to guide a travel planning system in determining a subsequent set of available instances of transportation by

executing a second set of seat availability queries to the first source or a different source of seat availability information based on the outcome of the evaluating quality of the availability information to provide the subsequent set of available instances of transportation

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising:  
receiving the set of instances of transportation from a travel planning system in response to a user query.

B5  
C1

(Amended) 23. The method of claim 21 further comprising:

sending the second set of seat availability queries to a different source of seat availability information if the results from the first source do not have a sufficient level of quality.

Applicant : Baggett et al.  
Serial No. : 09/431,674  
Filed : November 1, 1999  
Page : 4

Attorney's Docket No.: 09765-017001

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(Amended) 29. The travel planning system of claim 1 wherein actual availability queries that are sent to a source of airline seat availability information and are selected to increase the number of available solutions found or to increase the likelihood that the availability of the desirable solutions has been verified with high confidence.

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